

group showing the highest average wage—\$1,204—was that from 45 to 50 years of age—constituting 8 per cent of the total number of employees studied.—*Los Angeles Times*, April 10.

CANCER CONTROL MONTH

With this as its slogan and in accordance with President Roosevelt's proclamation designating April as "Cancer Control Month" more than 600 women this week will take the field under the direction of Mrs. William H. Daniel, Southern California Commander for the Women's Field Army Division of the American Society for the Control of Cancer. The object of the drive will be to teach men and women that cancer is curable in its early stages and to urge preventive measures to reduce the annual cancer mortality of 150,000 in the United States.

More than 100 nurses under the supervision of Mrs. Cullen Ward Irish, lieutenant commander of the Women's Field Army, will be stationed in the drug stores throughout the southland to better acquaint the public with the early symptoms of cancer.

Members of the Women's Field Army led by Mrs. Daniel, through local committees and speakers will stress the fact that 70,000 people might have been saved from death by cancer last year if they had heeded certain early signs of cancer and had early treatment. These early cancer signs are enumerated as: any persistent lump or thickening especially in the breast; any irregular bleeding or discharge from any body openings; any sore that does not heal, particularly about the tongue, mouth or lips; persistent indigestion often accompanied by loss of weight; sudden changes in the form or rate of growth of a mole or wart.

As a part of the campaign to check the spread of cancer and to create a fund with which to fight the disease donations will be asked of the public. Seventy per cent of all monies received will be spent in the state wherein it was raised under the approval of the American Society of the Control of Cancer.

Members of the Southern California executive committee are Clarence G. Toland, past president of the State Medical Association, chairman; and C. R. Robinson, vice-president of the Bank of America, as treasurer; Dr. Hiram C. Weaver, director of the American Society for the Control of Cancer; Dr. William H. Daniel, president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association; Dr. E. Eric Larson, president of the Los Angeles Surgery Society; Dr. Alvin G. Foord, chief of Pathology at the Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena; Dr. Henry J. Ullmann, chief of Radiology Department and Cancer Research, Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara; Dr. Albert C. Sellery, former chief of staff at the Seaside Hospital, Long Beach; Dr. Orville N. Meland, and Dr. Hall G. Holder of San Diego.—*Victorville News-Herald*, April 7.

PREFERRED PROOFS OF AGE

There has never before been such a demand for proof of age as at the present time. The Veterans' Administration, Social Security Board, Railroad Retirement Board, Civil Service Commission and Department of State, all government agencies, have outlined their preferences in the types of evidence necessary to prove age in their respective departments. The United States Bureau of the Census, with the Social Security Board, has prepared a summary in three preference groups which is reproduced here for the benefit of the large numbers of individuals who demand this information from local registrars of vital statistics. It should be noted that in every department the certified copy of the birth record is given first preference. The birth certificate has become, without doubt, the most useful legal document of the average American citizen.

Demands for proof of age have shown a marked increase during the past few years, largely as a result of governmental requirements. This is especially true for the filing of claims for pensions and other benefits provided under social security legislation.

For proof of age, the most acceptable evidence is a certified copy of a birth certificate filed at the time of birth. A certificate placed on file at a later date, especially if filed at a time when there is a specific purpose for doing so, has comparatively little value as proof of the facts stated thereon. In such cases, other information must be presented. Original census records afford evidence acceptable to courts and other agencies but should be used only as a last resort.

The following summary divides the evidence of proof of age into three preference groups. Group 1, Types Given First Preference, includes only records made at the time of birth or very shortly thereafter. Group 2, Types Given Second Preference, includes records which are usually considered acceptable without corroboration, although evidence from two or more sources may be required if circumstances warrant. Group 3, Types Given Third Preference, includes records which usually require corroboration from two or more sources.

Department of State (Passport Regulation)

Types Given First Preference

Certified copy of public record of birth.

Certified copy of church record of baptism, provided that these records were created within a short time after date of birth.

Types Given Second Preference

Affidavit of parent, physician, nurse, or midwife who attended birth.

Types Given Third Preference

Affidavit of a reputable person having sufficient knowledge to be able to testify as to the place and date of birth, incorporating briefly therein how and through what source the knowledge was acquired.

Social Security Board Bureau of Old-Age Insurance

Types Given First Preference

Certified copy of public record of birth, or certified statement of date shown on such public record.

Certified copy of church record of infant baptism.

Sworn statement of two other persons having knowledge thereof.

Types Given Second Preference

Bible or family records.

Certified copies of excerpts from business, fraternal, school, governmental, or other similar records.

Data supplied by government agencies, as authorized.

Other documents (including insurance records and passports), or evidence deemed by board to be of probatory value acceptable to the board.

Types Given Third Preference

No type given.

Bureau of Public Assistance

Types Given First Preference

Accepted without investigation:

Certified copy of public record of birth.

Transcript of birth record.

Types Given Second Preference

Accepted without investigation, unless corroboration seems desirable:

Baptismal and parish records.

U. S. Census records.

Marriage records of applicant or his children.

Records of school, homestead, naturalization, voting registration, and court. Military records.

Immigration papers.

Passports. Poll tax exemption certificates.

Types Given Third Preference

Corroborated from two or more sources usually required:

Family register, town and county histories; records of hospital, midwife, employment, trade union, fraternal organization, tombstone, slave sale, and vaccination.

Bible records; Who's Who.

Fishing, hunting, and drivers' licenses; legal papers; insurance policies.

Railroad Retirement Board

Types Given First Preference

Certified copy of public or church record of birth.
Records of school, insurance, trade union, marriage, naturalization, vaccination, Bible, and family. Passports.
Employers' records.
Fraternal records.
Military records.
Immigration papers.

Types Given Second Preference

Last resort items:

Drivers' permits.
Voting registration records.
Game licenses.
Newspaper and magazine clippings.
Poll tax exemption certificates.
Affidavits.
Other documents considered equally or more reliable.

Types Given Third Preference

No type given.

Civil Service Commission

Types Given First Preference

Certified copy of public record of birth.
Certified copy of baptismal or other church record.
(Above records must be based on information filed at time of birth or shortly thereafter.)

Types Given Second Preference

Original or certified copy of family record was made at time of birth or shortly thereafter. This must be accompanied by affidavit of Notary Public.

Statement from attending physician based upon his professional record.

U. S. Census records showing earliest available record of age.

Types Given Third Preference

School records.
Naturalization papers.
Immigration records.
Passports.
Insurance policies.
Affidavits of parents, relatives, or other persons.
Other documents.
(Two or more of above forms of evidence are desirable.)

Veterans Administration

Types Given First Preference

Certified copy of public record of birth.
Certified copy of church record of baptism.

Types Given Second Preference

Affidavit of attending physician.
Affidavit of midwife in attendance at birth.
Affidavits of two or more persons (preferably disinterested).

Types Given Third Preference

Bible or other family record of birth, certified as to date when made.
U. S. Census records.

American Medical Association Annual Reports Published.—According to the By-Laws of the American Medical Association, all reports of officers must be published one month in advance of the annual meeting. In *The Journal of the American Medical Association* for April 8 are published these reports. They give in retrospect the outstanding activities of the Association for the past year. The following is a list of some of the accomplishments named in these reports:

In 1934 there were 98,041 members and 60,714 Fellows. In 1938 these totals had grown to 109,435 and 68,478 respectively and on March 1, 1939, the official membership totaled 112,210 physicians and 69,468 Fellows.

Commenting on these figures in his report, Olin West, M. D., Secretary of the Association, says: "The figures here presented would seem to refute definitely statements emanating from various sources during these five years designed to indicate that there has been great disaffection in the ranks of the physicians of the United States and great diminution in the support of the profession generally for the established policies of the American Medical Association."

Total income in 1938 was larger than in 1937, but the increase in total expenditures was considerably larger than the increase in income, the Board of Trustees reports. Total expenditures were larger than income by the sum of \$11,-401.51.

The Fifteenth Edition of the American Medical Directory contains the names of 188,916 physicians of the United States and Canada. More than 13,000 new names appeared in this edition, while approximately 8,000 names which appeared in the Fourteenth Edition were dropped because of deaths.

A review of activities of the Council on Foods during 1938 emphasizes again the continued coöperation of members of the food industry. Few products have been accepted without requiring changes in nutritional claims on labels or in advertising and very few products have been rejected because producers were unwilling or unable to meet the requirements. In a study of the comparative value of the vitamin C potency of canned fruit juices it was found that accepted products compare favorably with fresh juices and rate as excellent sources of the antiscorbutic factor. The Council has prepared brief accounts of the principles which underlie the selection of an adequate diet, one such report having been published in the A. M. A. Internists' Manual. In coöperation with the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry there was published in *The Journal* a series of noteworthy articles on the vitamins prepared by prominent investigators in the field.

Briefly, the important work of the Council on Physical Therapy for 1938 has been directed toward the consideration of radium and radon seeds, artificial limbs, audiometers, hearing aids, x-ray apparatus and the study of radio interference caused by electromedical equipment.

The interference of radio communications by electromedical equipment was one of the important subjects coming before the Council. A joint meeting was held at which members of the medical profession, representatives of the manufacturers of electromedical equipment, of radio manufacturers and of other interested bodies, and officials of the Federal Communications Commission were present.

The Advisory Committee on Advertising of Cosmetics and Soaps has continued to pass on preparations on which its advice has been requested. There is no doubt that a decided change has been noted in the advertising of many of the cosmetic firms, owing in large measure to the advent of the new Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act but in small measure also to the activities of this committee. The committee has been called on for advice from many sources. Although the committee has not published any articles over its name, it is pleased to report that many of the firms with which it has dealt have revised their literature completely and effectively.

The Bureau of Health Education during the year handled 5,474 communications from doctors, medical societies and coöperating agencies, 8,220 inquiries from the lay public and 1,145 pieces of radio audience mail. It broadcast thirty-seven dramatized radio programs in coöperation with the National Broadcasting Company. The radio library furnished scripts to 128 county medical societies and twenty-one state medical associations, distributing a total of 5,540 scripts covering 876 titles.

The Bureau of Medical Economics reports that medical societies in forty-five states and Washington, D. C., are participating in the study of medical care conducted by the American Medical Association under the direction of the Bureau. Already 416 county medical societies in thirty-six states with the coöperation of other agencies and organizations have completed a study of the need and supply of medical care in their communities. . . .

The Committee on Therapeutic Research, a standing committee of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, which encourages scientific investigations in the field of therapeutics or treatment by providing funds for the prosecution of necessary research, reports that during 1938 it issued thirty-seven new grants.